

▼ *"The Commandant's Own,"*
The Marine Drum and Bugle Corps marches
onto Marine Corps Square at the Texas
State Fair in Dallas for another perform-
ance. The unit performed and led an
evening parade for 18 days during the fair.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Kevin Dolloson

The Battle Color

DETACHMENT:

Marines Perform Precision Drill, Display Musical Prowess

An hour before show time, Marines sporting khakis and polo shirts, listen to music and practice playing their instruments.

Then, they disappear into a building and make a transformation. When they reappear, in their hands are drums, mellophone bugles, trumpets, and more — instruments that aid them in their regular performance as a part of the Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment.

The BCD is comprised of "The Commandant's Own" Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, Silent Drill Platoon, and Marine Corps Color Guard. It is much like a battalion landing team, which is made up of several companies that form one of the Marine Corps' elite fighting units. The difference — one unit impresses America with winning battles, the other with expertise in drill and musical performance.

These Marines perform on tour



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every year for thousands of spectators around the globe, but the BCD is not their entire existence. When the red coats of the Drum and Bugle Corps, and the blue coats of the Silent Drill Platoon and Color Guard come off, the transformation is reversed, and they occupy their downtime with things that add balance to their Marine Corps lives.

Senior Marines like Staff Sgt. Reginald Jackson, a 14-year veteran of the D & B, have become mentors to the younger Marines.

Education is stressed to every Marine. "It doesn't matter whether you've been in for four or 40 years, you've got to get out some time and you should have something to show for it," said the Richmond, Va., native.

Whether performing for Queen Elizabeth II, or playing a pick-up game

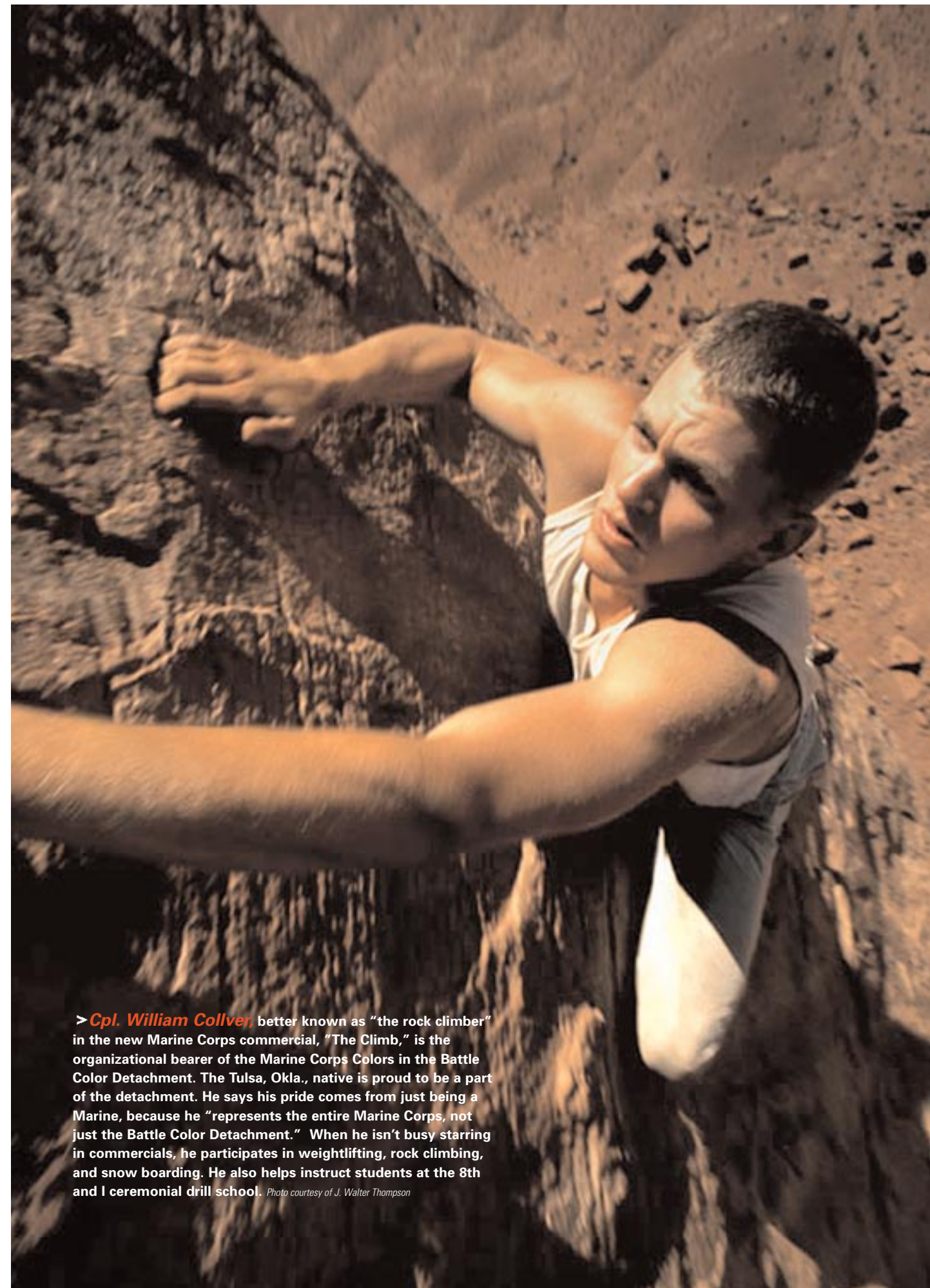
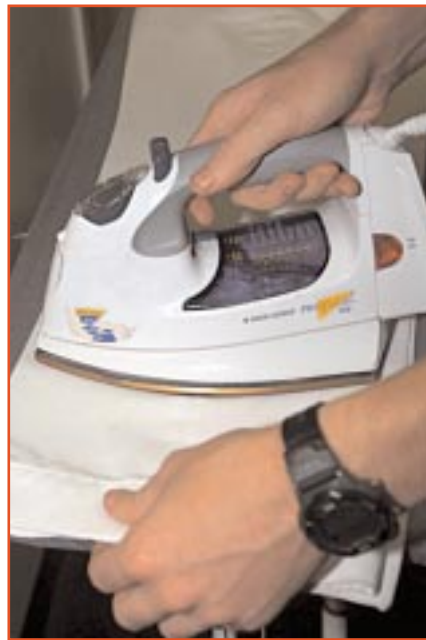
of football, these Marines make it all seem easy when they march onto a parade deck and in just under one hour, amaze and dazzle spectators with their precision drill and musical melodies. **M**

> The crisp, sharp look of uniforms doesn't appear without some effort and attention to detail. A normal part of preparation before every performance of the Battle Color Detachment is ironing.

By Staff Sgt. Kevin Dolloson

▼ "The Precision Musician" — Cpl. Dustin Hanson, Silent Drill Platoon, shows off some of his drilling techniques with his guitar. When Hanson's off the silent drill field, he's either working on his truck or playing the guitar.

By Staff Sgt. Kevin Dolloson



> Cpl. William Collver, better known as "the rock climber" in the new Marine Corps commercial, "The Climb," is the organizational bearer of the Marine Corps Colors in the Battle Color Detachment. The Tulsa, Okla., native is proud to be a part of the detachment. He says his pride comes from just being a Marine, because he "represents the entire Marine Corps, not just the Battle Color Detachment." When he isn't busy starring in commercials, he participates in weightlifting, rock climbing, and snow boarding. He also helps instruct students at the 8th and 1st ceremonial drill school. *Photo courtesy of J. Walter Thompson*